



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Murder of an Armenian Armed Forces Officer

As delivered by Deputy Representative Douglas Davidson
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
February 26, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States also regrets the February 19 murder of Armenian military officer Gurgen Margarian in Budapest. We extend our condolences to Lieutenant Margarian's family.

As one of the co-chairs of the Minsk Group, the United States remains deeply committed to the peace process. There has already been far too much tragic bloodshed, pain and suffering on both sides of this conflict, and we urge the governments of both Armenia and Azerbaijan not to let this unfortunate incident become a barrier to peace efforts.

In the aftermath of this tragic incident, we expect both governments will ensure the strictest discipline among their troops along the line of contact in order to prevent any further violence.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman